

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated February 10, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. The application is believed to be in allowable condition.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview on April 18, 2006, during which the claims were discussed. No agreement on claim amendments was reached, however, Applicants thank the Examiner for the his discussion of the Hejna reference.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 16-20, 22-24, 26-33 and 36-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0046080 (Hejna). Claims 1-4, 6-8, 14, 16-20, 24, 26-33 and 39 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering rejection as to these claims moot. Claims 11-13, 22-23, and 36-38 are addressed below.

It has been indicated that claims 5, 9, 10, 15, 21, 25, 34, 35 and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, independent claims 5, 9, 15, 21, 25, 34 and 40 have been amended and are in allowable condition. Claims 10-13, 22-23 and 35-38 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of independent claims 5, 9, 21 and 34, and are allowable for at least the reasons that the independent claims are allowable.

New claims 41-50 have been added and depend from one of the independent claims, listed above, that have been indicated as allowable. No new matter has been added with the addition of the new claims. It is believed that the new claims are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Applicants enclose herewith a check (#22472) in the amount of \$400.00 to cover the cost of four additional independent claims. Although Applicants believe no additional fees are due with this submission, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 19736-015.

Applicants respectfully request that a notice of allowance be issued. To answer any questions, or otherwise further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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